

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 4, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BENJAMIN made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 38.]

The Committee on Private Land Claims, to which was referred the "memorial of John R. Temple, praying a confirmation of his title to a tract of land within the Bastrop grant," have had the same under consideration, and submit the following report :

The claim of John R. Temple was not filed with the commissioners under the act of 1851, providing for the adjustment of private land claims in the Baron de Bastrop grant, on the ground, as he alleges in his memorial, that he believed his claim was confirmed with the Bonaventure claim, which it adjoins.

The committee find a regular chain of title from Morehouse to John R. Temple. The claimant and the persons under whom he holds have been in uninterrupted possession of a part of the lands since 1807, and the remainder since 1812 and 1814, and the same has been inhabited and cultivated from the dates, respectively, up to this time. Two affidavits, accompanying the papers, show that the lands have been inhabited and cultivated for more than twenty years.

Your committee are unanimously of the opinion that if this claim had been presented to the commissioners under the act of 1851, with the proofs now before the committee, such commissioners would have recommended this claim for confirmation.

The omission of the memorialist to present his claim to the commissioners ought not, in the opinion of the committee, defeat the rights of the claimant under the act of 1851; they therefore report a bill to confirm the memorialist in his title to six hundred and seventy arpents of land, being the tract which he holds by a regular chain of title from Morehouse, and upon which he now resides, and respectfully recommend the passage of the bill.

